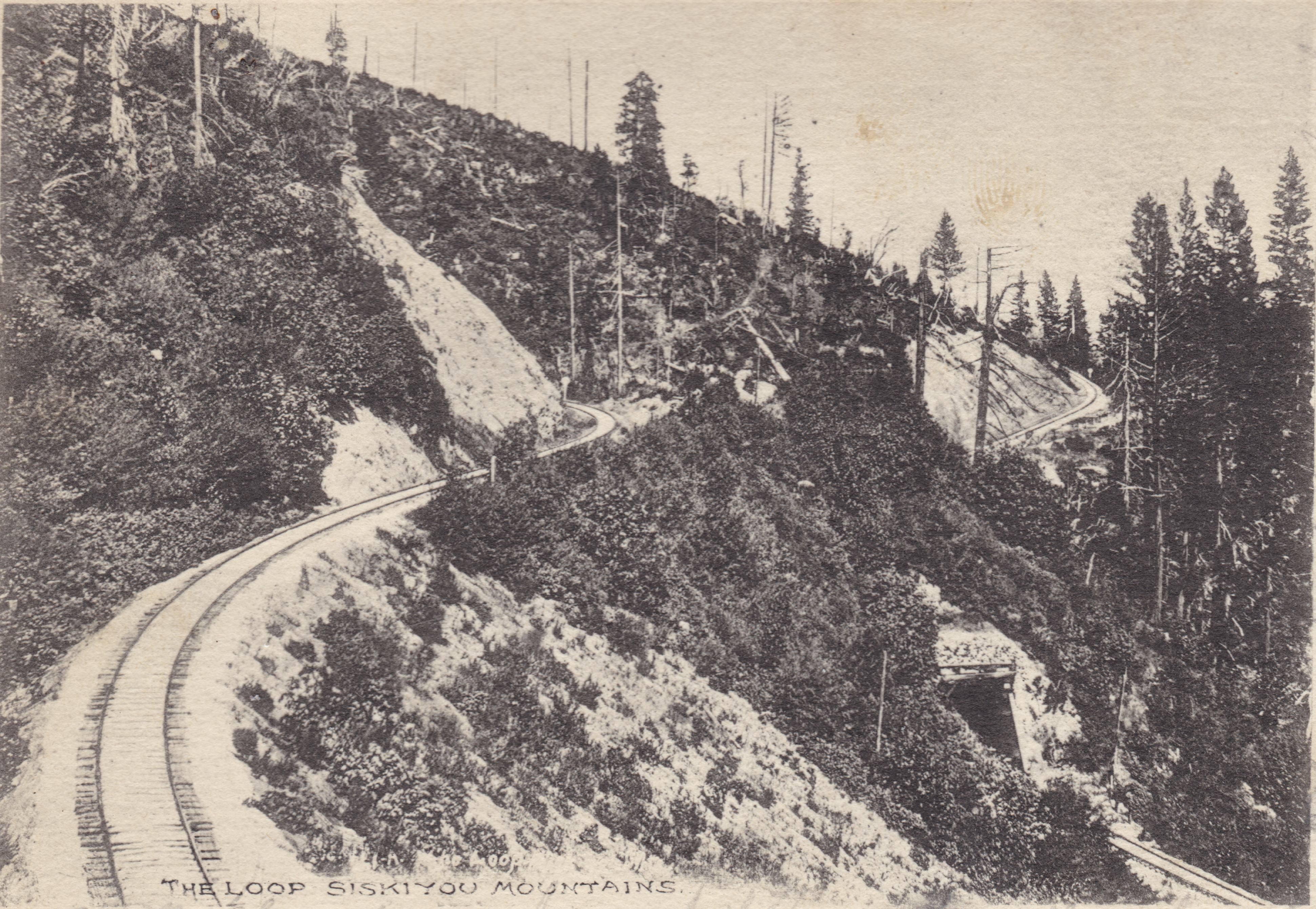
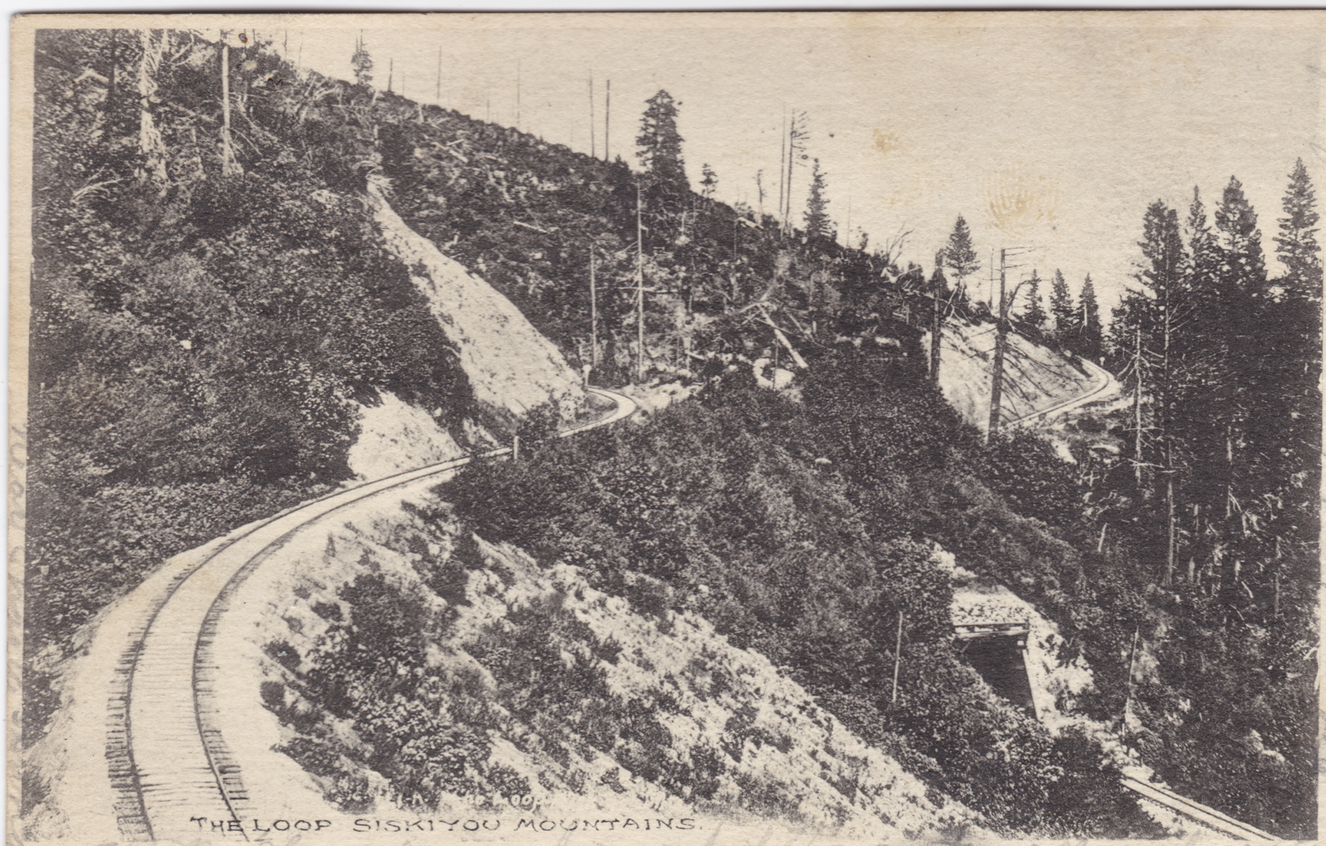

THE LOOP SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS.

5 P.M. Have crossed most of the mts. All safe as far
feel fine so enjoying my trip

The nicest trip I ever had
immensely. I hope you are
all right. I can't write at all.
With love from Mollie

[illegible]



THE LOOP SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS.

5 P.M. Have crossed most of the mts. all safe as far
I feel fine so enjoying my trip
immensely. The nicest trip I ever had
I hope you are
all right. I can't write at all.
With love from Millie

POST CARD

SH[illegible]
JAN
9
1907
CAL.

SERIES 1902
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1706 FRANKLIN 1790
POSTAGE
ONE CENT
1 1

Mrs Esther Smith,
Roseburg,
Oregon.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Postcard Millie Smith to Esther Smith, Roseburg, Oregon 1907
From the Wells Smith Steel Box

“The Loop — Siskiyou Mountains” (Southern Pacific Shasta Route: Loop Tunnels 14 & 15)

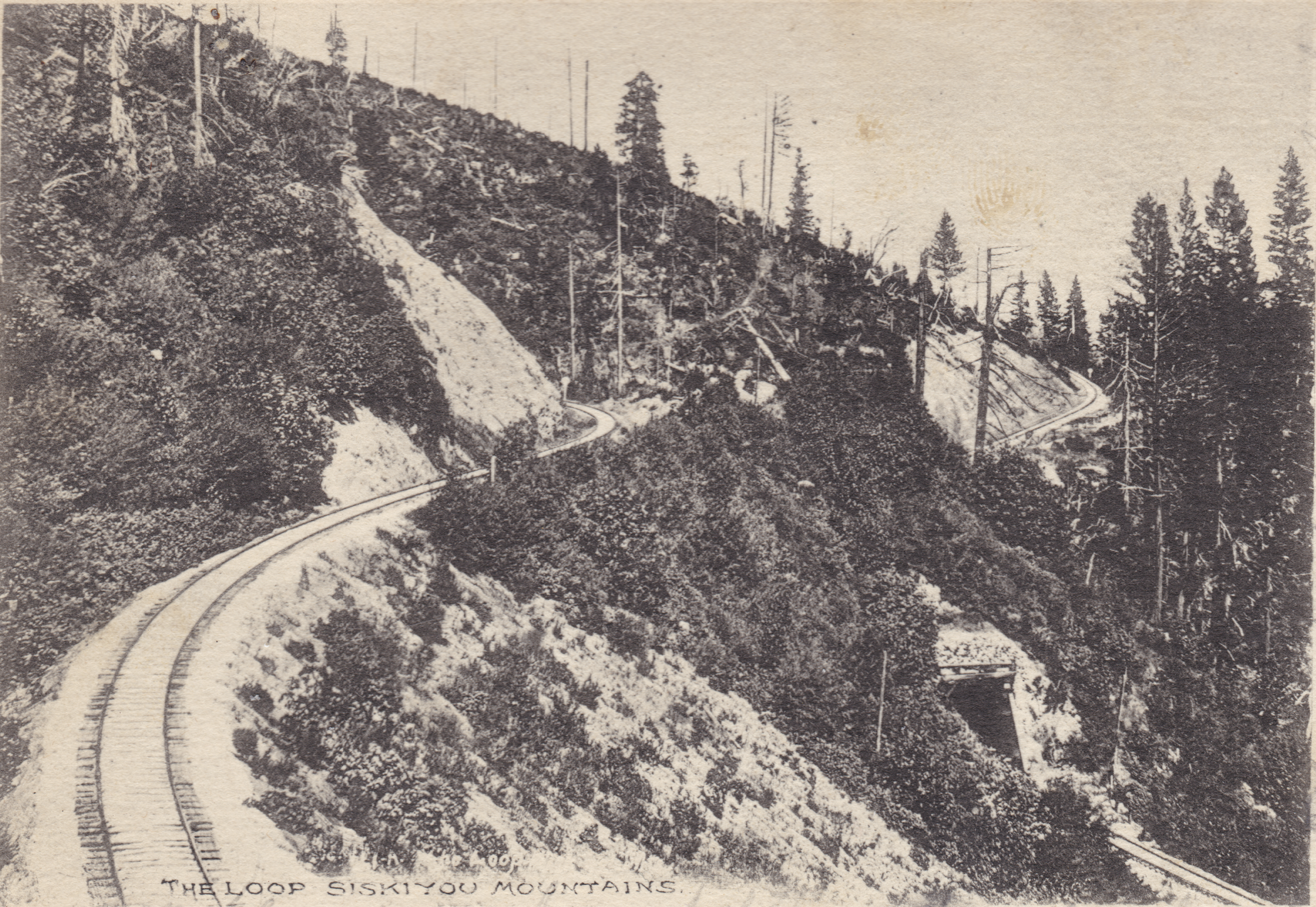
This postcard was sent by Millie Smith Carr to her mother, Esther Wells Smith, in Roseburg, Oregon. The view shows the Southern Pacific Railroad’s famous Loop Tunnels 14 & 15 in the Siskiyou Mountains—an iconic scene on the Shasta Route along the Oregon–California travel corridor. The card’s undivided-back format (“This side is for the address only”) places it at the early end of the postcard era, consistent with an early-1900s mailing.

Millie’s note is written along the bottom border of the image and reads like a quick message dashed off mid-journey. It places her near Shasta at 5 p.m., having crossed most of the mountains, suggesting she is traveling northbound through the Shasta/Siskiyou corridor—the direct route between Northern California and Southern Oregon. It’s the kind of small, ordinary line that suddenly becomes a map: a young woman on the move, checking in, letting her mother know she’s safe, and even admitting she can barely write as the trip rolls on.

This trip comes less than a year after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, when Millie and her husband Ralph Carr were living in San Francisco and lost their home. The postcard itself does not prove Millie’s exact home base at that moment (San Francisco vs. the East Bay), only that she is traveling through the corridor and writing in motion. Later postcards provide firmer location anchors, including a Berkeley, California postmark (1909) and a Red Bluff, California postmark (1912).

Message transcription (Millie):
“Near Shasta at 5 p.m. have crossed most of the mts. All safe so far. Feel fine, so enjoying my trip immensely. The nicest trip I ever had so far. I hope you are all right. I can’t write at all. With love from Millie.”

Later documents show Millie’s story continues far beyond California—eventually reaching Alaska, where she taught school roughly two decades later. Seen from that distance, this postcard reads like an early marker: one small note from the mountains, at the beginning of a much longer west-coast journey.

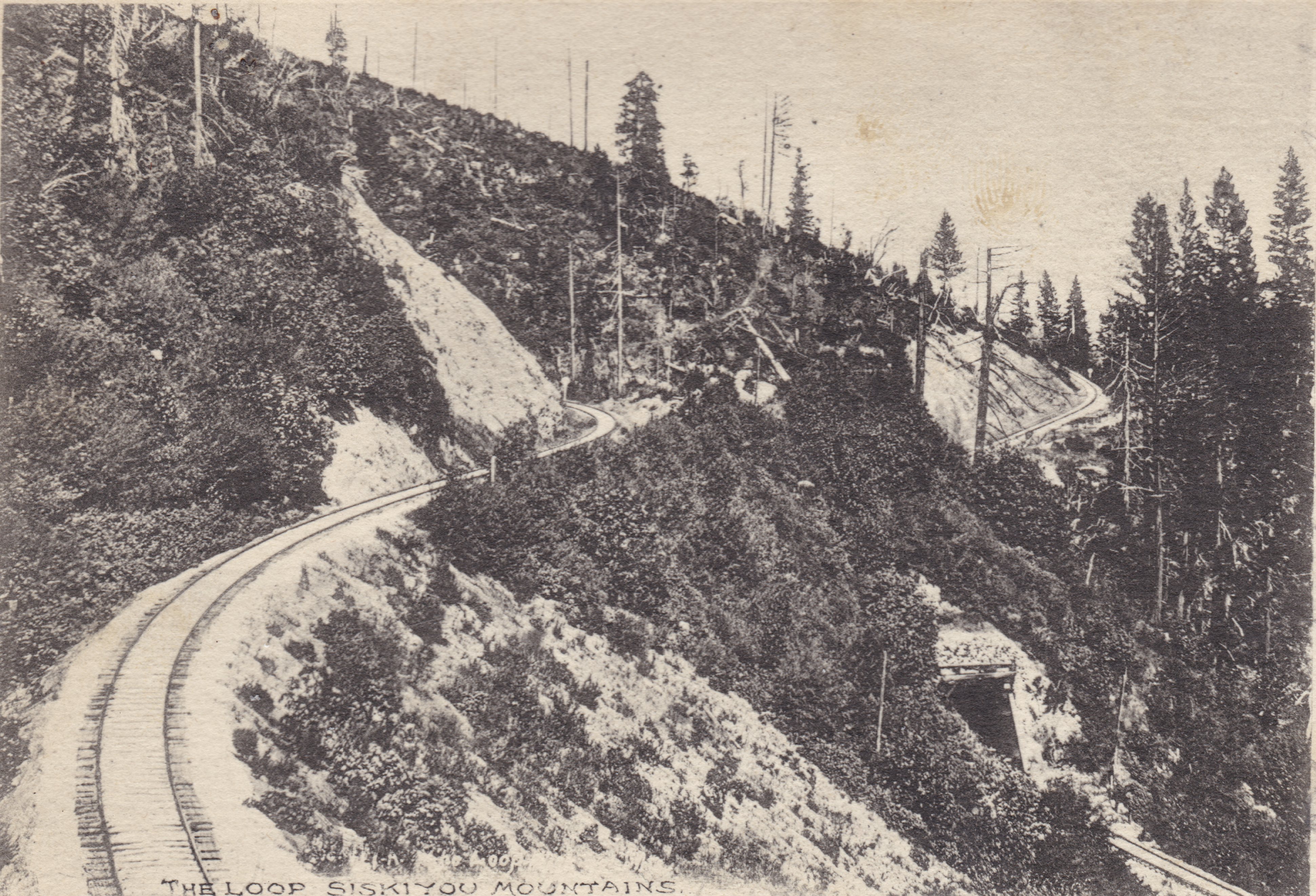


THE LOOP SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS.

[illegible]

5 P.M. Have crossed most of the mts. All safe as far
I feel fine so enjoying my trip

The nicest trip I ever had
immensely. I hope you are
all right. I can't write at all.
With love from Millie



THE LOOP SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS.

[illegible]

5 P.M. Have crossed most of the mts. All safe so far.
Feel fine & enjoying my trip

The nicest trip I ever had
immensely. I hope you are
all right. I can't write at all.
With love from Millie

POST CARD

Sh
JAN
1907
CAL.

SERIES 1902
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
1 1
1706 FRANKLIN 1790
POSTAGE
ONE CENT

Mrs Esther Smith
Roseburg,
Oregon.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.